श्री राजनाथ सिंह: महोदया, मैं माननीय सदस्य को यह जानकारी देना चाहूंगा कि सबसे ज्यादा खाद्यान्न और आर्थिक सहायता, दोनों जो उपलब्ध कराई गई हैं, वह राजस्थान को उपलब्ध कराई गई है। मैं समझता हूं कि शायद माननीय सदस्य अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से यह जानना चाहते थे कि आंध्र प्रदेश को कितनी सहायता उपलब्ध कराई गई है? क्योंकि माननीय सदस्य हमारे मित्र भी हैं। मैं इनकी मंशा से अच्छी तरह से परिचित हूं। इसलिए मैं माननीय सदस्य को यह बतलाना चाहूंगा कि यदि आप आन्ध्र प्रदेश के बारे में जानना चाहते हैं तो मैं आपको ये कम्पैरेटिव फिगर भी यहां पर देना चाहता हूं। राजस्थान को जहां पर 32.05 लाख मीट्रिक टन फूडग्रेन की सहायता दी गई है वहीं पर आन्ध्र प्रदेश को केवल 17.20 लाख मीट्रिक टन की दी गई है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of an IIT

*161. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level team of Professors belonging to various IITs visited Basara in Andhra Pradesh to study suitability of the site to set up an IIT in the area;

(b) if so, the findings of the study;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had written a letter to Prime Minister requesting to set up an IIT in Basara, which has the India's only shrine of Goddess Saraswati; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had written a letter requesting Prime Minister to consider a proposal for setting up an IIT at Basara, Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh as a special case. The Government of India's endeavour is to extend the benefit of quality technical education as provided in IITs to as many students in the country as possible. Since opening of new IITs requires huge investments, presently the Government of India is not considering opening of any new IIT in the country. However, cost-effective options

such as increase in intake of the existing IITs and upgradation of Regional Engineering Colleges and other premier institutions to IITs are being considered. Government has set up an Expert Committee to identify promising academic institutions to be upgraded to IITs. The Committee will look into the performance of the institutions in relation to their infrastructure, management structure, quality of students and faculty, the research output etc. The Government will take necessary action on submission of recommendations by the Expert Committee.

Use of aluminium and steel in coaches

*162. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of steel that is roughly required by the Indian Railways annually;

(b) the quantum of aluminium used in coaches and wagons by the Indian Railways;

(c) whether the Government are thinking of using aluminium to manufacture coaches and wagons for the Indian Railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not using aluminium in the manufacturing for coaches and wagons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Annual requirement of steel for track procurement and the manufacture of coaches and wagons is 9,60,000 Metric Tonnes.

(b) The quantum of aluminium used is approximately 440 Kilograms for non-air conditioned coaches and about 1800 to 2000 Kilograms for air-conditioned coaches. There is a negligible use of aluminium in wagon manufacture.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to manufacture aluminium bodied coaches. However, order for manufacture of one prototype aluminium bodied wagon has been placed.